

# HAWAII STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD



**Approved**

**2.26.2021 km**

## MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**Time: 6:00pm**

Location: virtual meeting via Zoom  
Zoom Meeting ID #8082816682 password Thrive  
Zoom room opened at 5:50pm to log-on prior to 6:00pm.

- I. Call to Order** - Meeting was held virtually via Zoom and called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Mattos. Welcome was expressed and quorum was recognized with the presence of eight commissioners:

Commissioners present: David “Kawika” Mattos, Alan Sunio, Allen Cardines Jr., Anthony Mendez, Chad Hasegawa, Charles Woolfork, Rick Kang and Sam Kippen  
Commissioner missing: David Lunceford (unexcused)  
AG Counsel present: Erin Yamashiro (Attorney General Office)

**HS-COF MISSION Statement** - was read by Woolfork

The mission of the Hawaii State - Commission on Fatherhood (HS-COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children. The commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies, and laws relating to children and families.

- I. Introductions & Acknowledgement of presence:**  
a. Fatherhood Commissioners  
Counsel to the Commission
- II. Conduct Agreement & reminder**  
a. Rules of Conduct – Chair Mattos briefly expressed that everyone participate in discussion.
- III. Community shares or concerns:**  
a. Public Testimony (no guest present)
- IV. Discussion**  
a. Budget / Finance for FY 2020-21  
i. Approval, Status & Other Matters / Ideas for budget to support fathers and statutory duties:

Finance Chair Mendez shared that DHS recently confirmed the new decreased budget amount is \$16,000 for this 2020-21 fiscal year. He and Chair Mattos shared the past budget spreadsheet with expense allocations for the previous \$18,000 budget from the meeting held in December. Mendez reviewed the line-item allocations of the budget and then explained that we now have a large unallocated amount because of the continuous COVID-19 state’s no-travel rules.

Commissioner Cardines shared in details about an upcoming virtual conference called Fathering Hawaii’s Future, which the Parents, Inc. agency will put on in April. He explained that Parents, Inc. also put on the previous 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual - Hawai’i Fatherhood Conference on O’ahu and he is requesting that the commission supports event, including

financially. He further shared about 3 potential guest speakers for the conference. More details of a financial request will be discussed at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Sunio chimed in on how previous budgets used funds to participate in workshops and professional development conferences, along with financial support of annual conferences and state father's day celebrations. He also expressed the need for an annual promotion and marketing allocation and how that budget expense never got regularly allocated. He expressed that advertising and public awareness about our fatherhood commission is necessary to the commission's success. He then shared about a morning meeting he had with a director at the Kapolei Courthouse & detention home (DH) for teens. The director explained that kids and their families really need support, especially kids on the leeward side of O'ahu. A group of services providers across Hawai'i are currently meeting weekly on Tuesdays on Zoom to work towards supporting families, while raising the question if kids should be sent to the DH or not. Sunio further shared briefly about the McKinley Act and that the director he spoke with is requesting that someone from the commission share about what this commission does at their meeting.

Chair Mattos then shifted the conversation to explain that the commission does not have heavy restrictions on how the budget is spent, however; funding should be spent towards accomplishing the statutory duties and direct work towards supporting fathers. He further explained that ideas or proposals must be voted upon with quorum and agencies who are granted funds would probably need to front their expenses and then submit for reimbursement. He shared that monies could be spent on purchases made prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, even if the event is held in the next FY, as long as the expense date is printed in the current year.

Group dialog was also interjected about supporting the Starfish Mentoring Program with marketing funds to help them find mentors for the children who experienced sex-trafficking.

Commissioner Cardines referenced back to the pending April fatherhood conference and further shared his intent to reach out to the Governor to support the April event on behalf of the conference committee. They also want to do recognitions of fathers who are impacting communities. He continued in brief to share of a family's trauma after the return of their teenage daughter being sex-trafficked and how we, as fathers, need to step up the challenge to make our community safer. More information to share about the event at the next commission meeting.

Chair Mattos then recited the nine statutory duty titles and shared that consideration to support fatherhood programs with program supplies such as the 24/7 Dad – fatherhood curriculum by the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) agency or similar supplies are also suggestions for expense allocations if we know of fatherhood programs that could use this support.

Commissioner Kippen shared that a future consideration is to support HCAN's (Hawai'i Children's Action Network) – Parent Leadership Training Institute which they conduct yearly. Their goal for this 20 week program is to empower parents to understand the advocacy process. He gave various examples of what advocacy could be for parents and

how it could impact them. He continued that he personally went through the program, which is done on O`ahu and on Maui. He feels this is valuable to parents and that it increases the capacity of parents and fathers to advocate for their children. Kippen explained briefly that HCAN works towards addressing family issues and gave the recent example of HCAN advocating for Paid Family Leave.

Commission Woolfork will check with the Kaua'i Fatherhood Council and Brian Alston to seek needs on Kaua'i concerning fatherhood support.

b. Review of Proposed Legislation Bills

- i. Mendez explained that he researched current proposed House Bills that are going through the legislation process and presented a spreadsheet with bills listed for discussion, giving brief title and descriptions. He shared that he did not review any Senate Bills yet. The other commissioners have not researched legislation bills to share. A reminder was expressed by AG-Yamashiro that further discussions about legislation bills cannot be voted upon at this meeting and that even after the next meeting, unless the commission votes on specific bills to support or oppose, individual commissioners cannot testify on their own and say they are testifying on behalf of the commission. Mendez discussed how to possibly distribute the list to review his spreadsheet list. AG-Yamashiro chimed in again to share her knowledge of the process and channels of how bills start off going through various committees, and suggested that prematurely reviewing the lengthy list may not be necessary, until bills are passed through initial committees and reach a certain process. The advice was well received. Clarity was also made that the fatherhood commission is more of an advocate role for supporting or opposing any bills. Commissioner Mendez will do further research on status of bills that appear connected to supporting fathers and families. He will share research and the commission will review bills and possibly vote at the next meeting. A little further dialog ended with expressing the learning curve for the commission team to especially be ready for next year's session and processes.

In closing, Chair Mattos expressed the need for each commissioner to participate in the work for the commission, rather it's reviewing bills or focusing on work towards accomplishing something of the nine statutory duties. He ended with requesting that every commissioner step forward to utilize their gifts, talents, passion and expertise towards the commission's mission.

V. Next meeting:

- a. Friday, February 26st, 2021 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom.

VI. Adjournment – Chair Mattos expressed his gratitude to the attendees. Motion was made by Mendez and 2nd by Sunio to end the commission meeting. Ayes – 8 / Opposed – 0. Motion passed to adjourn at 7:32 pm.

2.24.2021km